



695
MAR
2010



TONY DANIEL
SANDU FLOREA

BATMAN



69511

DIRECT SALES



7 61941 20005 7

\$2.99 US DCCOMICS.COM

Tony S. Daniel
09

I don't have
time for this.

Not for games. Not
for anything short...

...of the truth.

SNAP



I've done my research.
Dr. Singh suffers
from acrophobia—



—an acute fear
of heights.



And after
this, of bats.



He tells me about
the night in question.
And about a catlike
intruder rousing him
from his sleep.



A young
woman.
She made
threats...



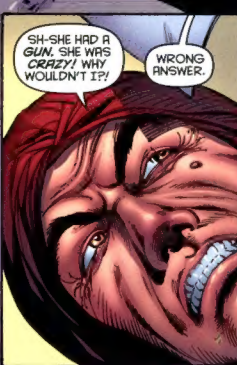
...that he either
comply with her
demands or
bury his family.



She wanted access
to Gene-Core's lab.
She didn't say what
she was after there.



YOUR FAMILY WAS
VACATIONING IN ST.
TROPEZ. YOU BELIEVED
THIS KID COULD HARM
YOUR FAMILY JUST BY
SAYING SO?



SH-SHE HAD A
GUN. SHE WAS
CRAZY! WHY
WOULDN'T I?

WRONG
ANSWER.



He knows more,
and he's afraid of
spilling it to me.

But he's even more
afraid of heights.

Between the gagging
and vomiting he spits
out something useful.

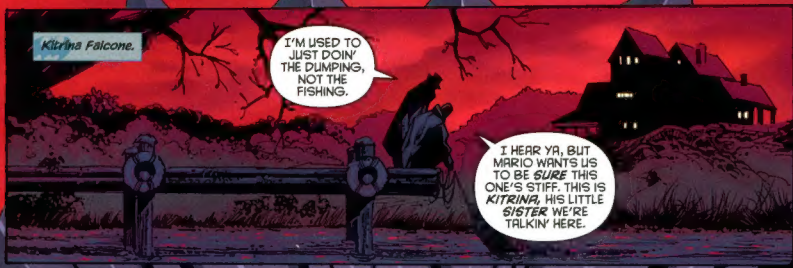
A name which leaves
me no doubt where
to go next.

LIFE AFTER DEATH PART 4 SMOKE AND MIRRORS

WRITTEN & DRAWN BY **TONY S. DANIEL** INKS **SANDU FLOREA** WITH **NORM RAPMUND**

COLOR **IAN HANNIN** LETTERS **JARED K. FLETCHER** COVER **TONY S. DANIEL** ASSET EDITOR **JANELLE SIEGEL** EDITOR **MIKE MARTS**

BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE



Kitrina Falcone.

I'M USED TO
JUST DOIN'
THE DUMPIN',
NOT THE
FISHING.

I HEAR YA, BUT
MARIO WANTS US
TO BE *SURE* THIS
ONE'S STIFF. THIS IS
KITRINA, HIS LITTLE
SISTER WE'RE
TALKIN' HERE.



LET'S
OPEN 'ER
UP AND
SEE.

UH-OH.



GONE.



UNNH!

BAFF

BAFF

GAHK!

I learn that Kibrina
the dirty little secret
within the Falcone
crime family.

They claim she's
Mario's little sister.

And that she should've
been inside that pine box
they pulled out of the pond.

SO WHERE
IS SHE
NOW?

DISAPPEARED!
VANISHED! HOW
SHOULD I KNOW?

Wrong answer.

AN ABANDONED ANIMAL
SHELTER IN GOTHAM...

GOTCHA,
BABY.

CREAK

CATWOMAN:
GREAT.

YOU WERE
EXPECTING
SOMEONE
ELSE?

THIS IS MY
HOUSE!

CRACK

SWAT

AND I GET
BITCHY WHEN
PEOPLE DON'T
RING FIRST.

THOCK

TWENTY MINUTES LATER...

WAKE UP, SLEEPYHEAD. THERE'S LOTS TO TALK ABOUT.

LIKE THESE MAPS OF DEVIL'S SQUARE.

YOU MEAN THE ONES YOU *STOLE* FROM *MEP*? YEAH, LET'S TALK ABOUT THAT.

THEY WERE IN THE FALCONES' SAFE. THAT MAKES THEM *FAIR GAME*. BUT YOU SAY THEY'RE YOURS. EXPLAIN.

STARTING WITH *WHO* YOU ARE.

THE NAME'S *KITRINA*. I'M THE YOUNGEST DAUGHTER OF CARMINE, THE ROMAN, FALCONE.

THAT HAIRBALL YOU JUST COUGHED UP IS A BLATANT LIE.

TRUST ME, I'D KNOW.

LIKE I CARE IF YOU BELIEVE ME OR NOT. JUST GIMME WHAT'S MINE.

THE MAPS. RIGHT. ABOUT THOSE... INTERESTING WHAT THEY HIGHLIGHT-- BUILDINGS, STREETS... EVEN *DEVIL'S SQUARE'S* UNDERGROUND INFRASTRUCTURE.

LOOKS TO ME LIKE A *PLAN OF ATTACK* ON THE BLACK MASK.

AND I HEAR YOU'RE IN CAHOOTS WITH THE *PENGUIN*. SO AM I GUESSING RIGHT THAT HE'S IN LEAGUE WITH THE FALCONES TO TOPPLE THE *MASK*?

YOU GUESS WRONG ON ALL COUNTS. I *MADE* THOSE MAPS. I DESERVE THE BULK OF THE *BOUNTY* ON BLACK MASK'S HEAD.

THE GOVERNMENT'S FIFTY MILLION DOLLAR BOUNTY?

I'M OPEN TO HIRING AN ASSISTANT.

ARKHAM ASYLUM...

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING, **BATMAN**. BUT YOU COULD'VE WAITED IN MY OFFICE.

I SEIZED THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE A LOOK AROUND THE ASYLUM'S NEW ADDITIONS. PARTICULARLY THE **PANIC ROOM**, DR. ARKHAM.

IT'S THE SAFEST PLACE IN ALL OF GOTHAM CITY. STRONG AS ANY NUCLEAR SHELTER. A BIT **COLD** AT THE MOMENT, BUT THAT WILL SOON BE FIXED.

SMART MOVE. ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING THE ASYLUM'S RECENT SECURITY BREACHES.

BUT I'M HERE TO TALK ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE. **SOMEONE ELSE...**

THE **BLACK MASK**. I'VE ASSEMBLED A **PROFILE** ON HIM AND WOULD LIKE TO SEE IF HE MATCHES ANYONE YOU'VE SEEN HERE BEFORE.

I'VE ALREADY PUT MY OWN CHARACTER STUDY TOGETHER BASED ON WHAT I KNOW. BUT I DON'T BELIEVE HE'S EVER BEEN A PATIENT HERE...

GOOD. THEN WE CAN COMPARE NOTES. YOU START.

AS A **PERSON**, I'D GUESS HE'S HIGHLY INTELLIGENT, NEAR GENIUS-LEVEL, AND HE OOOZES CHARISMA.

PEOPLE **TRUST** HIM--TO THE POINT OF FOLLOWING HIM NO MATTER WHERE HE LEADS.



HE'S WEALTHY. PERHAPS NEWFOUND WEALTH...WHICH WOULD EXPLAIN HIS STARTLINGLY ABRUPT RISE TO POWER.

HE'S NOT YOUR EVERY-DAY CRIMINAL MASTERMIND, BATMAN.

I'VE ALREADY COME TO MOST OF THOSE CONCLUSIONS MYSELF, DOCTOR. BUT I'M MORE INTERESTED IN HIS *WEAKNESSES*.



HE'S DERANGED, OBSESSED WITH POWER, UNSYMPATHETIC...

THOUGH HE ATTEMPTED TO KEEP HIS ARMY-- THE PATIENTS TAKEN FROM ME-- MEDICATED. SO THERE MUST BE SYMPATHY...

HE'S MEDICATING THEM AND *BRAIN-WASHING* THEM TO SERVE ONLY HIS *NEEDS*.



I'M LOOKING AT A DELUSIONAL, BLACK-HEARTED, CHARISMATIC, LEADER-TYPE. A MODERN DAY HITLER WOULDN'T BE TOO FAR OFF BASE, DOCTOR.

LIKE I SAID, WHOEVER HE IS, HE'S NEVER BEEN UNDER MY CARE.



I'VE SEEN *EVIL* BEFORE.

I'M SURE YOU *HAVE*, AND YOU'RE AFRAID OF IT. THAT EXPLAINS THE BULGE IN YOUR COAT.



ONLY A *TEMPORARY* MEASURE, BATMAN. UNTIL THE ASYLUM IS COMPLETE, I MUST TAKE EVERY PRECAUTION.



RUBBER BULLETS. I REFUSE TO USE LETHAL FORCE EVEN AT MY OWN PERIL.



IF IT BUYS ME ENOUGH TIME TO MAKE IT DOWN HERE WHERE IT'S SAFE, IT'S SERVED ITS PURPOSE.



WITH THE SECURITY YOU HAVE BOTH INSIDE AND OUT, DOCTOR, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TO USE THAT *OR* THE PANIC ROOM.

BUT BE CAREFUL, REGARDLESS.

My meeting with Arkham wasn't as productive as I'd hoped. He avoided presenting the Black Mask in too negative a light.

But his theory on the Mask coming into wealth recently... is interesting.

DEEP

BATMAN, I'VE GOT SOME NEWS.

SHOOT, HUNTRESS.

VRUMMMM

I'VE GOT MARIO FALCONE RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME. LOOKS LIKE HE'S HEADING OUT OF TOWN.

HE PROBABLY JUST FOUND OUT HE'S HOMELESS. STAY ON HIM. I'LL JOIN YOU SHORTLY.

WHERE'RE WE HEADED, BOSS?

ANOTHER MILE UP. TURN OFF ON BAKER STREET. SOME OF OUR BOYS ARE WAITING FOR US THERE.

WE'LL LET OUR TAIL RIDE INTO AN AMBUSH.

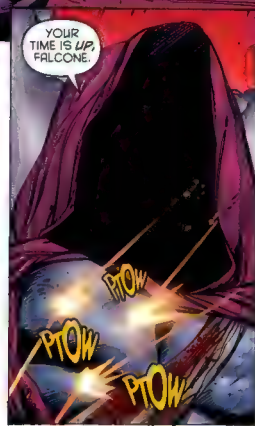
IT'S A SHAME, TOO. A GAL LIKE HUNTRESS LOOKS A LOT BETTER WITHOUT BULLET HOLES.



YO, BOSS!
SUMPIN'S
COMIN' RIGHT
AT US!



UH,
I'LL KILL
YA... YA SON
OF A....



YOUR
TIME IS UP,
FALCONE.



NO!
YOU'RE THE
GUY TAKIN'
OUT MY
CREW!

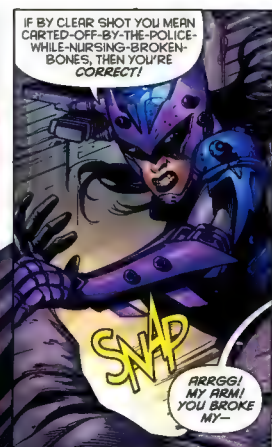
LET'S NOT
KEEP HELL
WAITING.







I'M NOT
LEAVING HERE
WHILE I HAVE A
CLEAR SHOT AT
BATMAN.



IF BY CLEAR SHOT YOU MEAN
CARTED-OFF-BY-THE-POLICE-
WHILE-NURSING-BROKEN-
BONES, THEN YOU'RE
CORRECT!



LET ME
ALLEVIATE THE
PAIN FOR A
WHILE.

SNAP

ARRGG!
MY ARM!
YOU BROKE
MY—

THUD

First Black Mask and now the
Reaper. Can't these guys make up
new monikers for themselves?



BASH



I should be one
to talk, right?

I HAVE A VERY
OLD SCORE TO
SETTLE WITH YOU,
BATMAN. BUT LUCKY
FOR YOU, I'M
RUNNING OUT
OF TIME.



Toxins. Too late.



Breathed in...
too much...

-COUGH-
-COUGH-
-COUGH-



YOUR
RESPIRATOR,
QUICK.

I'M OKAY...
I'M IMMUNE TO
THE CHEMICALS.
-COUGH-
-COUGH-

THAT CREEP
IS GETTING
AWAY--I'LL
FOLL--

NO...

"...HE'S FAR TOO DANGEROUS."

RAAAAH!

SHUNK



BAFF

WAAAA!
BTOWW!
BTOWW!
BTOWW!



THAT'S QUITE THE BEATING YOU'RE HANDING OUT, MASTER DAMIAN.

THUNK

OH, IT'S JUST YOU.



YOU SOUND OVERJOYED TO SEE ME.

I DON'T LIKE BEING SNUCK UP ON, THAT'S ALL.

AND WHAT ARE YOU HIDING BEHIND YOUR BACK, PENNYWORTH?!



YOUR HOMEWORK, SIR. I RECALL YOUR AGREEING TO SOLVE THE MYSTERY BEHIND THE GAS MASK'S.

WHY WASTE MY TIME? GRAYSON PROBABLY HAS IT FIGURED OUT ALREADY.



OR HE SHOULD.



SHUNK



I THINK I KNOW
A THING OR TWO
ABOUT THE FALCONE
FAMILY LINE AND WHERE
IT **STOPS**--AND IT'S
NOT WITH HER.



WHETHER
SHE'S A FALCONE
OR NOT, I HAVE MORE
IMPORTANT ISSUES
TO DISCUSS WITH
HER.

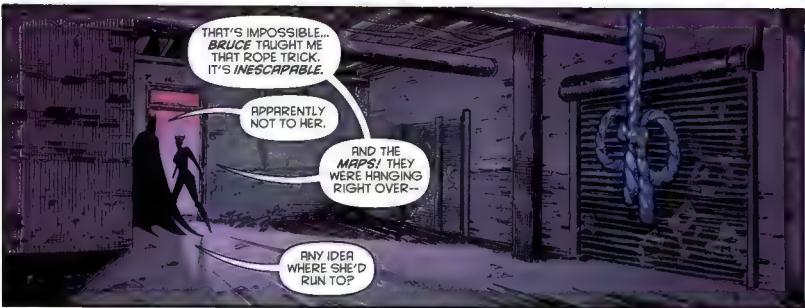
LIKE HER
DETAILED
MAPS OF
BLACK MASK'S
HIDEOUTS IN
DEVIL'S
SQUARE?

AND YOU
LET HER OUT
OF YOUR
SIGHT?

JUST TO
SHOW YOU IN.
SHE'S NOT GOING
ANYWHERE.
NOT UNLESS
SHE'S--



A MASTER
ESCAPE ARTIST?
THAT'S EXACTLY
WHAT SHE IS. OPEN
THE DOOR,
SELINA.



THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE...
BRUCE TAUGHT ME
THAT ROPE TRICK.
IT'S **INESCAPABLE**.

APPARENTLY
NOT TO HER.

AND THE
MAPS! THEY
WERE HANGING
RIGHT OVER--

ANY IDEA
WHERE SHE'D
RUN TO?



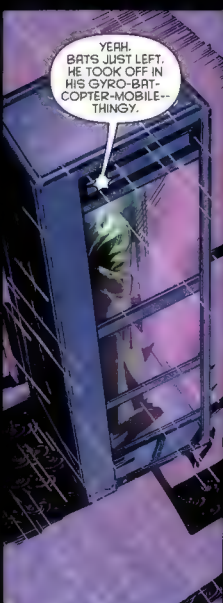
ZIP.
I SHOULD'VE
PUT HER IN A **CAGE**.
BUT THAT SEEMED
INHUMANE--AT
THE TIME.



IT'S
ORACLE.
I HAVE
TO TAKE
THIS.



Oracle thinks she may
know where **Kirina** is
hiding out. If that's
where she's headed now,
she'll find me waiting.



YEAH.
BATS JUST LEFT.
HE TOOK OFF IN
HIS GYRO-BAT-
COPTER-MOBILE--
THINGY.



LISTEN,
NO OFFENSE,
BUT I HAVE TO FIRE
YOU AS A CLIENT...
NO, NO, YOU *HAVE*
BEEN VERY
GENEROUS. IT'S
NOTHING TO DO
WITH *THAT*.

IT'S JUST--
I HAVE OTHER
PRIORITIES.
THINGS ARE
COMING BACK
TO ME...



THINGS. JUST...*FRAGMENTS*.
AND NONE OF IT MAKES ANY
SENSE RIGHT NOW. AND
FROM WHAT LITTLE HAS COME
BACK, I'M REMEMBERING
THAT I DON'T LIKE YOU
VERY MUCH.



I'M SURE
I'LL BE SEEING
YOU AROUND,
PENGUIN.

HWAK-WAK
WAKK!



NOW...
WHERE
WAS I?

A close-up of Batman's face and upper body. He is looking down and to the right with a serious expression. He is wearing his iconic black cowl and suit. The background is a field of tall, dry grass.

Oracle matched Kilrinn to the description of a cat burglar who's been victimizing Gotham's south side.

It looks like the girl got by using stolen credit cards whenever the cash ran out.

A close-up of Batman's face as he looks upwards. In the background, a Ferris wheel is visible against a dark sky. The scene is set at night.

Fifteen minutes ago, one of the victims' phone cards was used to place a call to Penguin's line at his old digs.

That call came from a public phone here.

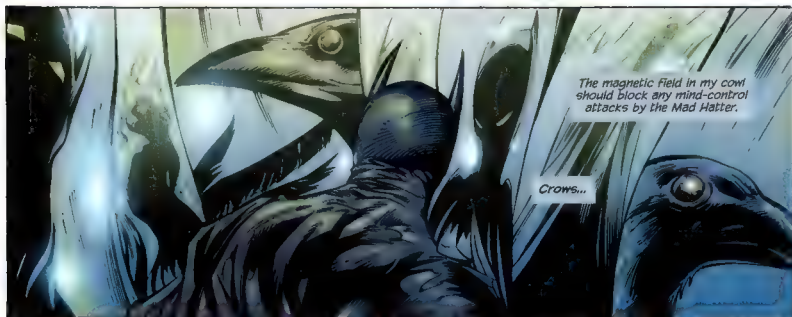
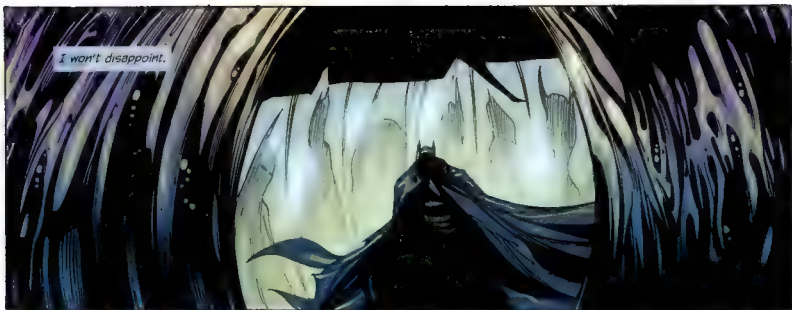
A large, stylized splash of water, likely from a fountain or a pool. The water is depicted with dynamic, flowing lines and a bright yellow glow. In the background, a Ferris wheel is visible.

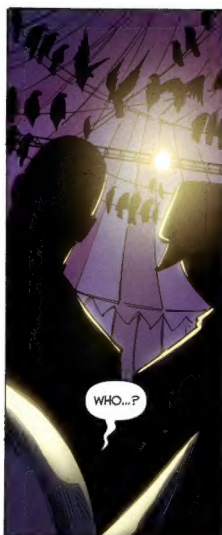
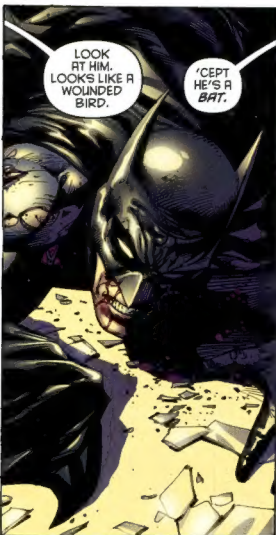
The Fairmount Amusement Park. Abandoned for nearly eight years, but recently purchased by one of Gotham's most reviled criminals--Mad Hatter.

SPLASH

A close-up of a clown's face, partially submerged in water. The clown has a large red nose and a wide, toothy grin. The water is splashing around his face.

Someone just ran into the fun house. No doubt they're expecting me to follow.







TRUST ME,
BATMAN--WE'LL
MAKE GREAT
PARTNERS!

WAK!
WAK!



This past November, five lucky students from the Harvey Milk High School in New York got an all-access tour of the DC Comics offices. Our guests were participants in the school's career day, an event designed to highlight and promote positive gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender role models in the workplace. Not only did the young people get to see the process of creating a comic book from start to finish, but they also got to interact with DC staff members, as well as meet President and Publisher Paul Levitz, and art-direct an illustration with former Birds of Prey artist David Cole.

During the course of their time at DC, the students saw sneak previews of some big events coming up in the DCU including War of the Supermen, JLA: Rise and Fall and other books still too top-secret to mention outside these walls. We were extremely happy to host such a wonderful bunch and hope to see them again soon!



DC NATION

TEXT **DC NATION** TO **62407** TO GET THE LATEST DC UNIVERSE NEWS, ALERTS AND SPECIAL OFFERS! Standard carrier rates may apply.

DC COMICS DAN DIDIO, Senior VP-Executive Editor PAUL LEVITZ, President & Publisher GEORG BREWER, VP-Design & DC Direct Creative RICHARD BRUNING, Senior VP-Creative Director PATRICK CALDON, Executive VP-Finance & Operations CHRIS CARAMALLIS, VP-Finance JOHN CUNNINGHAM, VP-Marketing TERRI CUNNINGHAM, VP-Managing Editor MADRYN DRUCKER, VP-Brand Management AMY GENKINS, Senior VP-Business & Legal Affairs ALISON GILL, VP-Manufacturing DAVID HYDE, VP-Publicity HANK KANALZ, VP-General Manager, WildStorm JAY KOGAN, VP-Business & Legal Affairs/Deputy General Counsel JIM LEE, Editorial Director/WildStorm GREGORY NOVECK, Senior VP - Creative Affairs RICH PALERMO, VP-Business & Legal Affairs/Deputy General Counsel RON PERAZZA, VP-Creative Services SUE POHIA, VP-Book Trade Sales STEVE ROTTENDAM, Senior VP-Sales & Marketing CHERYL RUBIN, Senior VP-Brand Management ALYSE SOUL, VP-Advertising & Custom Publishing, JEFF TROJAN, VP-Business Development, DC Direct BOB WAYNE, VP-Sales

**SUSTAINABLE
FORESTRY
INITIATIVE**
Fiber used in this product line meets the
sourcing requirements of the SFI program.
Certified Fiber Sourcing PWC/SFKDC-260

BATMAN BMS, March, 2010. Published monthly by DC Comics, 1700 Broadway, New York, NY 10019. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to BATMAN, DC Comics Subscription, P.O. Box 308, Canons, NY 10820. Annual subscription rate (12 issues) \$29.99. Canadian subscribers must add \$12.00 for postage and GST. GST # R125921672. All foreign countries must add \$12.00 for postage. U.S. funds only. Copyright © 2010 DC Comics. All Rights Reserved. All characters featured in this issue, the distinctive likenesses thereof and related elements are trademarks of DC Comics. The names, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. DC Comics does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories or artwork. This book is manufactured at a facility holding chain-of-custody certification. This paper is made with sustainably managed North American fiber. Printed by World Color Press, Inc., Montreal, QC, Canada. 01/00/10.

DC Comics, a Warner Bros. Entertainment Company



